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## Defense calls last witness

# Ex-CIA man blames Soviet for Detlavs charges

By SHERIDAN LYONS

A retired Central Intelligence Agency agent testified yesterday that the Soviet Union has waged a nonstop propaganda war against Latvian refugees, attempting "to brand these people with the Nazi iron."

The agent, Melbourne Hartman, was the final defense witness yesterday as testimony ended in the deportation hearing for Karlis Detlavs, a Govans man accused of lying in 1950 when he denied having participated in Nazi war crimes.

Immigration Judge Emil Bobek said he would schedule at least one more court day in the case because "I don't like so many loose ends left." Both the prosecutors and the defense attorney are to submit other documents as evidence in the case.

Mr. Detlavs, 67, of the 500 block Orkney road, is accused of lying when he entered this country because the prosecution charges that he participated in the persecution of Jews as a member of the Latvian Legion.

Several prosecution witnesses have testified that he participated in mass executions in and around Riga during 1941.

Mr. Hartman, a native of Riga, retired from the CIA 2½ years ago. He said he specialized in the study of Soviet propaganda for at least 15 years and found extensive war-crimes allegations against the Latvian Legion.

The Soviets were trying "to stifle the voices" of Baltic nationals who were telling the world of atrocities under the Russian occupation of their countries, he said.

But, he said, although the Germans labeled the Latvian Legion a volunteer force, almost all of its members were forced to serve by the Germans.

"It was the Germans who held a pistol to the head of Latvians," he said. "Some resisted—and died." For others, he said, "it's a question of the frying pan or the fire. They thought the frying pan was better."

Under cross-examination he said, however, that the Germans did not begin to recruit local people forcibly until the winter of 1942, after they failed to reach Moscow.

Mr. Hartman said he became an investigator for the Displaced Persons Commission in 1949, specializing in the search for would-be immigrants who might be a

security threat to the United States. Nazis and Communists were flatly excluded, he said, whether or not there were war crimes involved.

During 1949, all applications by members of the Baltic legions were "put on hold," he said, while the commission attempted "to find out what the Baltic legion cases were."

He said the United States refused to agree to the Russian request after the war that Baltic nationals be returned to their Soviet-controlled homelands, but that many of these nationals still feared repatriation. Most of those who had fought against Russia with the Germans or who had been exposed to Western ideas ended up in labor camps in Siberia, he said.

But many got out, he said, and the Russians "began to taint people of the Baltic states—especially those who fought against them—as war criminals. It was obvious the Soviets wanted to brand these people with the Nazi iron and at the same time brand them as war criminals to mask their protestations of Soviet atrocities."

When George L. Parker, an immigration prosecutor, suggested that some Latvians saw the Germans as "saviors," Mr. Hartman said: "There were individual people, incensed at the crimes committed by the Soviets, individuals who would have gone to hell with the Germans to get even with the Soviets."

"The Germans had pushed the Soviets out," he said. "The Latvians hated the Soviets for what they'd done to them in 1940."

He said that many legion members who had lied previously could not lie under oath and enter America, even though they knew failure to do so would delay their emigration.

Mr. Hartman said he did not know Mr. Detlavs, but said he has attended many of the hearings at the U.S. District Court-house.

Mr. Parker argued unsuccessfully to strike out all of Mr. Hartman's testimony because, he said, there is no evidence that any of the witnesses against Mr. Detlavs were exposed to Soviet propaganda.

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